

U.S. Military Academy - Officer's Quarters
(Professors Row)
South side of Washington Road, east of
intersection with Mills Road
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-4

HABS
NY
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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NY
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HABS No. NY-5708-4
U.S.M.A. No. 103

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - OFFICER'S QUARTERS
(PROFESSORS ROW)

LOCATION: South side of Washington Road, east of intersection with Mills Road, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.586880.4582830.

PRESENT OWNER
AND OCCUPANT: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE: Family Housing - Colonel.

SIGNIFICANCE: Quarters No. 103 are among the earliest surviving quarters for professors at West Point. As part of a group of three structures making up "Professors Row," these early nineteenth-century stone duplex quarters form a distinctive architectural grouping on Washington Road. Many of the most illustrative professors of West Point have occupied these quarters.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1826-1828.
2. Architect: Unknown. The fact that original specifications were issued by the Academy (presumably by the Quartermaster) is strong evidence that the design also originated there (Grashof).
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Daniel Corwin (Grashof).
5. Original plans and construction: Specifications for Quarters 103 and 105 were issued in 1826. Proposals for construction were received in July and August of that same year, the contract being awarded to Daniel Corwin. Corwin was paid \$12,339.50 in June, 1828 when he completed the two double quarters and was then paid \$184. in March, 1829 for improvements of an unspecified nature.

Each quarters had two principal rooms on each floor off of a side stairway hall. This original plan can be seen in a drawing by Major Richard Delafield, "Plan of all the quarters at West Point occupied by the officers and professors of the Military Academy in Feb. 1842" (see Supplemental Material).

6. Alterations and additions: Additions were begun prior to 1856 and continued into the 1950s. The following chronological list of additions is taken from Grashof's "Building Analysis" and is keyed to a schematic sketch plan also reproduced from the same work (see Supplemental Material).

A Original Quarters
1826-28

B Two-story Brick Addition
1836
pl. 103-a

C Two-story Brick Addition
prior to 1856
pl. 103-a. The addition to the rear on Quarters 103-B is noted as having been "added several years before at private expense."

D Two-story Brick Addition
prior to 1889
Record Series #280, Post Facilities Report, 1889. Submitted by Captain Charles W. Williams. Sometimes called Letterbook (hereafter cited as Williams, Facilities Report). This space is accounted for in the building-by-building description.

E,F Two-story Brick Additions
1871-ca. 1889
pl. 103-a 1871 (without these additions)
Williams Facilities Report. These spaces are accounted for in the building-by-building description. A further note states that part "of the east wing was erected in 1882 out of private funds...."
The construction dates of the remaining additions was unknown.

G Brick Addition
1889-1903
Williams Facilities Report. This space is not accounted for in the building-by-building description.

The map West Point, 1903 shows the fully developed footprint, however, this addition was only a single story.

Pl. 103-3, taken in 1909, shows Quarters 103 at this stage of its development. The second story was added sometime before the mid-1930s.

The present porches (H) probably date from the time prior to 1889. In Williams, Facilities Report it is noted that access to these quarters are "gained by means of verandas extending the entire length of the eastern and western additions." (p. 61) The small section (I) of quarters 103B was built in 1953. It was probably at this time that the two western windows of the dining room were made into doors onto this porch.

B. Historical Context:

For an historical and architectural context of this building within the overall development of West Point, see: HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Quarter No. 103 represents the evolutionary character of nineteenth-century building. Its main mass is Federal style, while its additions include Greek Revival, Italianate and shingle style detailing. While the early nineteenth-century portion of the building is its most important element, the numerous additions provide a wide variety of nineteenth-century architectural styles, providing a strong sense of time and place.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition. Sandblasting has occurred and some bricks have deteriorated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main stone mass of the building measures approximately 110' x 45', with brick additions to the west, east and south. To the west is a two-story brick addition, approximately 25' x 25' while to the south of that is a long two-story brick addition approximately 15' x 75'. To the east is another brick addition measuring approximately 25' x 25', with another addition further east measuring around 30' x 28'. To the south of these is another long two-story brick addition measuring approximately 15' x 60'.
2. Foundations: The foundation walls are coursed ashlar on the front (north) of the original building with a red sandstone water table, random ashlar elsewhere on the original building, and brick on the additions.
3. Walls: The exterior walls of Quarters No. 103 are coursed ashlar on the north facade of the original building, random ashlar on its other walls, and 5 course American bond brick walls in all additions except the easternmost one along the front, which has 7 course American bond walls.

The original building has red sandstone quoins, lintels and sills, while the additions have both red sandstone and limestone lintels and sills.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick and stone walls are used on Quarters No. 103, with wood joists used to support the floors and wood rafters for the roofing system.
5. Porches, chimneys: Six porches exist on Quarters No. 103: two front porches flanking the original building, with wood Doric columns supporting pedimented gable roofs and square balusters and railings to complete the detailing, three enclosed rear porches with shed roofs, wood floors and vertical wood paneling in the lower half and one shed roofed rear porch.

Nine brick chimneys are incorporated into Quarters No. 103; two in the center of the original building, flanking the main gable ridge, five in the additions to the east and two in the additions to the west.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Seven wood entry doors lead into Quarters No. 103, one to each of all porches except the eastern front porch, which has two entries. The main entry to Quarters No. 103A is a Dutch door with three horizontal panels below and a vertical stack of 3 square panels, a horizontal panel and then three square panels in the upper half, all flanked by four fluted pilasters supporting a cornice and dentils. Sidelights extend from 1/2 way up to the top of the door. The "inside" rear door to this unit has two wood panels below and four glass panes above.
- b. Windows: The windows have six-over-six double-hung wood sash treatment throughout the first and second floor with the exception of a recent picture window in the front brick addition furthest to the east. The basement windows have 6 lights each, while an oval window with a cross shaped mullion is in the gable peak on the easternmost addition.

The window opening trim varies from red sandstone lintels and sills on the front facade of the original building to red sandstone sills and brick segmental arches on its rear facade, to the use of both limestone and red sandstone lintels and sills in the brick additions, plus the use of brick segmental arches in the basement windows of the brick additions.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roofs are covered with gray slate. The roofs are flat on the two rear additions.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves are of wood. A wood cornice with cut wood brackets exists on the original building.
- c. Dormers: Five dormers are on Quarters No. 103: two on the front of the original building with gable roofs and slate sides, and three on the rear, two with gable roofs and one with a segmentally arched roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The floor plan of Quarters No. 103, other than the original stone structure, is highly irregular. While the unit is a duplex with identical arrangements in the original portion, two rooms against the central party wall and a hall/stairway to the outside, the additions follow no set pattern, having been added at different dates in a haphazard arrangement. Quarters No. 103A was surveyed for the purposes of this report.

On the first floor, this unit has two parlors and a hall/stairway in the original portion, a kitchen and pantry in the rear addition, a dining

- room in the addition immediately to the east of the original building and a study in the easternmost addition. The second floor has two bedrooms, a bath and a hall in the original building, two bedrooms and 1-1/2 bath in the rear addition, and a bedroom, sewing room and library in the front, eastern additions. The third floor, existing under the eaves of the original building only, has two bedrooms and a bathroom.
2. Stairways: These are three stairways that serve Quarters No. 103A. The main stairway connects the basement to third levels, with a doorway leading to the basement. The basement stair is a straight run, open riser type with wood treads. The stairs from the first level to the third level are a "U" return type with wood risers and treads and turned newel posts, balusters and a round rail. Wood panels exist on the walls beneath the stairs. A rear "U" return stair with wood risers and treads connects the first and second floors in the rear addition, while an enclosed "L" type stairway with wood risers and treads connects the first to third levels in the easternmost addition.
 3. Flooring: The flooring is hardwood on the first floor, heart pine on the second floor, pine on the third floor and concrete and pine in the basement. Linoleum is used in the kitchen and bathrooms.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plaster throughout, often with wallpaper covering, and the ceilings are plaster. The rear hall on the first level has vertical 1" x 3" wood paneling to 5'.
 5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Four panel wood doors are typical in Quarters No. 103A. The first level has ornate trim in the original section with Tudor rose corner blocks in the doorways, while the trim is much plainer in the rest of the house.
 6. Built-in features: The most distinctive built-in features in Quarters No. 103A are the mantelpieces in the two parlors, the dining room and the study. The front parlor has tapered, curved wood pilasters flanking the fireplace and supporting a cornice beneath a shelf. A hanging "drapery" pattern exists in the panels below the shelf. The rear parlor has 5 wood panels and dentils below the shelf. The dining room has a carved marble mantelpiece. The study has flanking fluted pilasters supporting a wood shelf with 7 panels below it.
 7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Steam radiators provide heat for the building.
 - b. Lighting: Except for flourescent lighting in the kitchen, incandescent lighting is used throughout.
- D. Site:
1. General setting and orientation: Quarters No. 103 is the eastern building of "Professors Row." It is oriented to the north, fronting on Washington Road, with a narrow tree shaded lawn in front. To the west is Quarters No. 105 (HABS No. NY-5708-5). To the south, across

the rear service road, the land rises gently with a scattering of trees before coming to a large parking lot. To the east is a flat roofed brick garage and Quarters No. 102 (HABS No. NY-5708-3), a fine Gothic Revival building. A brick wall runs between the buildings, separating the front from the rear. Deciduous trees are scattered about the site.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Alteration working drawings are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy. An 1842 plan of the quarters is located in the National Archives, Fortifications File, Record Group 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Drawer 32, Sheet 25. In the National Archives is another drawing, "Sketch Showing Proposed Additions to the Quarters of the Prof. of Nat'l Philosophy and the Prof. of Ethics, Engineering Department, Dec. 24, 1855. Approved by Sec. of War, Jan. 18, 1856." Drawer 32, Sheet 84. (See Crashof for this plan, p. 40.)
- B. Early Views: Early photographs can be found in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. Some of these are reproduced in the Crashof and Lange volumes of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.
 2. Secondary and published sources:

Annual Reports, U.S. Military Academy.

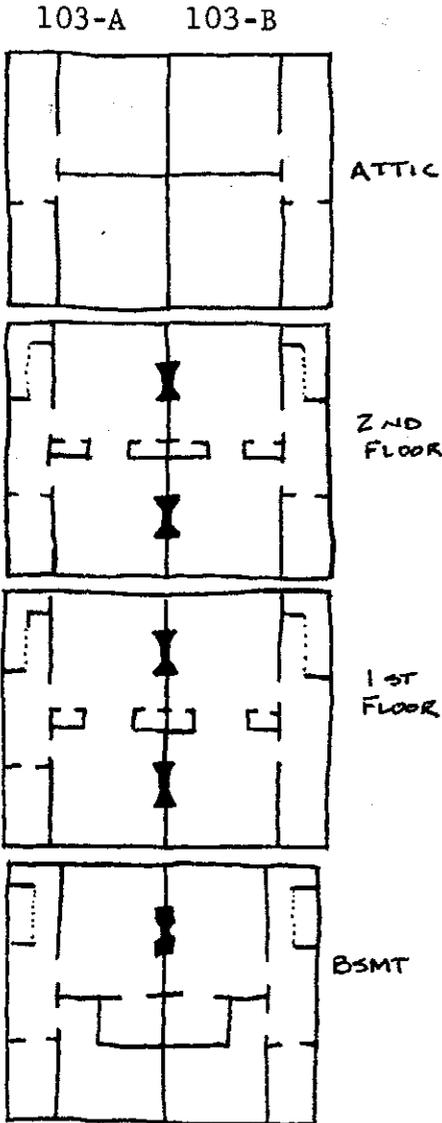
Crashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Cuidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Lange, Robie S. "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.
- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: A more thorough examination of records in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections might reveal more information.
- E. Supplemental Material:
1. 1842 plan and schematic sketch plan.

E. Supplemental Material

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1. 1842 Plan and Schematic
Development Plan of Quarters No. 103.



QUARTERS 103
HABS No. NY-5708-4

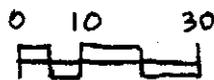
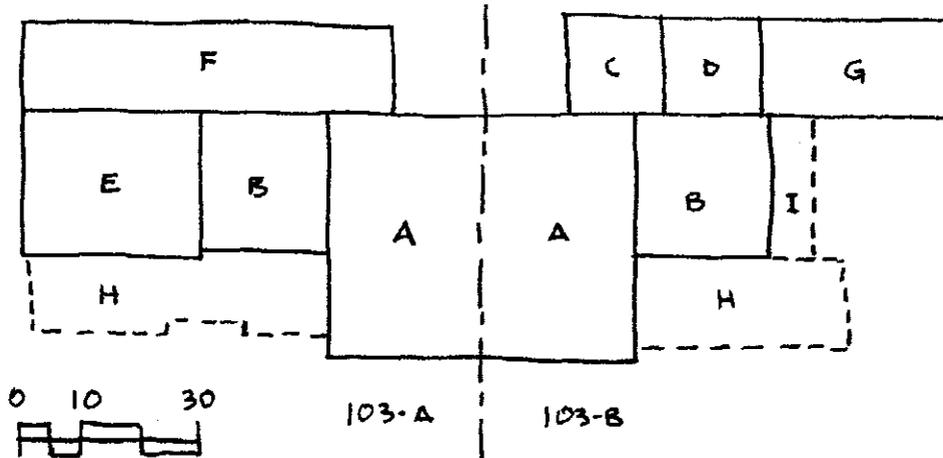
Taken From:

"Plan of all the quarters at West Point occupied by the officers and professors of the Military Academy in Feb. 1842.-- forwarded with the letter of the 10 Feb. 1842 by Richard Delafield, Major of the Engineers, Superintendent of the Military Academy."

Drawer 32, Sheet 25
Fortifications File-- U.S. Military Academy
West Point, (NY)
Record Group 77--Records of the Office of
the Chief of Engineers
Cartographic and Architectural Branch
National Archives, Washington, D.C.

(Grashof, "Building Analyses")

T.C.M. 1985



SCHEMATIC PLAN OF ADDITIONS
(GRASHOF, "BUILDING ANALYSES")

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr. and Timothy Lindblad, architectural historians, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982 and 1984.